

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 SAJ-01 /075 W

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R 110950Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4319

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2137

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: REPORTED IMPENDING REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL PARTY AND
GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

1. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
YET, IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM REPORTS WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING
FROM POLISH SOURCES FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS (REPORTED EARLIER
BY MEMCON) THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ABOLISH
THE 17 WOJEWODZTWOS IN FAVOR OF APPROXIMATELY
50 SMALLER ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS IN BOTH THE PARTY
AND GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. THE APPARENT TIMETABLE CALLS
FOR A PARTY LENUM LATER THIS MONTH OR IN EARLY MAY TO
DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE REORGANIZATION, AND A SEJM
SESSION IN SEPTEMBER TO PASS THE REQUIRED LEGISLATION
FOR THE GOVERNMENTAL PART OF THE REORGANIZATION. MOST
SOURCES SAY THAT THE ACTUAL REORGANIZATION WILL BE
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ACCOMPLISHED IN OCTOBER AND THAT DELEGATES TO THE 7TH

PARTY CONGRESS, TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER, WILL BE ELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.

2. OUR SOURCES SAY THAT THIS SWEEPING REORGANIZATION IS BEING BILLED AS DECENTRALIZATION, BUT IN FACT WILL RESULT IN GREATER CONCENTRATION OF POWER IN WARSAW ON BOTH THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL SIDES. WHEN ASKED WHY THIS IS BEING DONE NOW, MOST SOURCES RESPOND THAT THE PARTY HIERARCHY HAS FINALLY DECIDED THIS IS THE ONLY WAY IT CAN BREAK THE POWER OF THE LOCAL PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL BUREAUCRACIES WHOSE ACTIONS--OR FAILURE TO ACT--SO OFTEN FRUSTRATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GIEREK REGIMES PROGRAMS. SOME SOURCES ALSO SUGGEST THAT A PRIME MOTIVATION IS TO BREAK UP THE LARGE REGIONAL POWER CENTERS, REPRESENTED BY THE MAJOR WOJEWODZTWOS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY GIEREK FEELS COMPELLED TO EMBARK AT THIS TIME ON SUCH A SWEEPING CHANGE WHICH IS LIKELY IN ITS INITIAL STAGES TO RESULT IN BUREAUCRATIC CHAOS AND DECREASED EFFICIENCY UNTIL THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS GET THEMSELVES SORTED OUT. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO GIEREK'S POLITICAL AUTHORITY. NOR ARE WE AWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN BUREAUCRATIC FOOTDRAGGING AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL. HOWEVER, FOR YEARS, PARTICULARLY SINCE GIEREK TOOK OVER IN DECEMBER, 1970, A CONSTANT COMPLAINT OF CENTRAL POLITICAL AUTHORITIES AND OBSERVERS HAS BEEN THE RESISTANCE TO CHANGE ON THE PART OF PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL APPARATCHIKS AT LOWER LEVELS. ONE OF THE GOALS OF LAST YEAR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM WHICH MERGED SOME OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AND PARTY BUREAUCRACIES WAS TO ELIMINATE OR UNDERCUT THE POWER OF LETHARGIC BUREAUCRATS. THE TOTAL REORGANIZATION NOW BEING WORKED OUT APPEARS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO BE JUDGEMENT UPON THE FAILURE OF LAST YEAR'S REFORM TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED EFFECT.

DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WARSAW02137
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750127-0374
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750456/aaaabzvp.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED IMPENDING REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE
TAGS: PINT, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006